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THE ILLINOIS CENTENNIAL.

**Address at Jackson Park, Chicago, on the Occasion of the
Presentation to the South Park Commissioners of
the Statue of "The Republic."**

EDWARD F. DUNNE.

In this year, 1918, we celebrate the centenary of the admission of the State of Illinois into the American Union, and at the same time we can here, in this great city, appropriately celebrate the quarter centenary of Chicago's great architectural and artistic triumph twenty-five years ago when she opened the gates of that wondrous World's Columbian Exposition. Today we stand upon a spot wholly appropriate to the dual celebration.

Where we now assemble is within the confines of Illinois and of the grounds where that great exposition was held, and today, to appropriately celebrate the event, there is presented to the South Park Commissioners a replica of one of the great artistic triumphs of the wonderful aggregations of artistic and architectural masterpieces which were exhibited to a surprised and delighted world in the year 1893.

It has been my fortunate lot to have visited and seen four of the world's great expositions—that of Paris in 1900, that at St. Louis, and that at San Francisco in 1916, as well as the one in Chicago in 1893, and I have no hesitancy in saying that, to my mind, the Chicago Exposition excelled them all in architectural beauty. No one who ever saw that magnificent quadrangle of buildings, at the head of which, facing east, stood the Administration Building, can have forgotten that colossal statue of "The Republic" with uplifted arms which faced the quadrangle from the east. A replica of that glorious statue is presented to the people of Chicago, and in accepting it for the people, the South Park Commissioners do well to celebrate the occasion by this ceremony, at which

we may be excused if we briefly dwell upon the tremendous advance which this great State and this great city have made, *both* spiritually and artistically, as well as materially, since they have sprung into being on the map and in the history of the world.

In 1818 Illinois was a mere outpost of civilization and Chicago was unnamed and unknown. Along the principal rivers of the State, in few sparse settlements, there lived, in rude huts and log cabins, in the whole State, only about 50,000 white inhabitants. Its rich inland prairies were untouched by the plow and practically undiscovered. Its mineral wealth was unknown. Today she has a population greater than Sweden, greater than Holland, greater than Portugal, greater than Greece, greater than Bulgaria, greater than Serbia, and almost as great as Belgium or Roumania or Argentina.

Among the states she has leaped into third place in population, first in agricultural production and railway development, second in wealth and third in every important development where she is not first or second. Chicago, born in 1837, has within eighty years become the fifth greatest city in the world and the second greatest in the western hemisphere. But it is not only in population and material power that this city and State have become great. It is the pride and boast of the men and women of Illinois and Chicago that this great city and State have played a leading role morally, spiritually and politically in the history of the Republic and of the world.

Upon the soil of Illinois, on the 4th day of July, 1778, took place a struggle at Fort Kaskaskia in which the ragged soldiers of the young republic, under the leadership of George Rogers Clark, commissioned by Patrick Henry, which eventuated in incorporating into the American Republic of all the territory north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi Rivers, which eventually brought within the national confines the whole Mississippi Valley, in which 50,000,000 prosperous people are now living. Illinois is the heart of the Republic. Have you ever noted its peculiar formation and surroundings? Look at the map and you will find Lake Michigan, in the shape of a great index finger, pointing southward to the

northeast corner of the State—the finger of destiny, with the point of that finger resting upon the great metropolis of the West, where now nearly two and one-half million people are engaged in developing what will be the greatest city on the western continent. Note the peculiar shape of this State. Trim off a little of the boundary line between it and Wisconsin and it takes the shape of a human heart, the heart of the Mississippi Valley, the throbbing nerve center of the United States, and across its fair bosom, northeast to southwest, runs the mighty Illinois River, navigable for 263 miles, like a cordon of the legion of honor. Over 6,000,000 people now dwell in comfort and happiness within its borders.

Upon the prairies of Illinois, in the fifties, was fought out that great intellectual and moral issue as to whether a republic could survive half slave and half free. Illinois declared for the freedom of the black man and furnished Abraham Lincoln, statesman and humanitarian, and Ulysses S. Grant, the soldier, to settle definitely that great problem for the Nation.

And what of her imperial city, Chicago? In 1803 a blockhouse, called Fort Dearborn, was built by some soldiers at the south end of what is now called Rush Street bridge. Its garrison was massacred by Indians in 1812. Twenty-one years afterwards, in 1833, a town was incorporated called Chicago and the city incorporated in 1837. Its site was a swamp. Its river was so shallow and tortuous as to be unnavigable for lake vessels. Its river had to be dredged and straightened and its swampy land had to be filled in. It was done. It needed a canal to connect its sluggish stream with the Desplaines and Illinois Rivers. After years of effort it secured lands from the Federal Government, from the sale of which the canal was finally built, connecting Lake Michigan with the Illinois River. Nature had done but little for Chicago, but man's energy did much. In 1848 she opened a railroad to the west, and the canal and railroad began to bring into Chicago the products of the rich soil of Illinois and Chicago began to grow. Thirteen years afterwards, in 1861, Chicago had a population of 120,000 and gave Abraham Lincoln to the Nation. Thence her progress materially, politically and spiritually has been the marvel of the world. She has become the nerve center of the American Republic, from

which has emanated all the great progressive movements of recent years. She has, in her day, advocated abolition of human slavery, abolition of railway domination, dissolution of trusts, control of monopolies, public ownership of public utilities, extinction of prostitution, woman's suffrage and the overthrow of Prussian lust and Prussian frightfulness. Many of her aims have been accomplished and more are in process of early attainment.

Nor has she neglected the arts and sciences and higher education. As early as 1879 she founded her Art Institute, now one of the most successful in America. Nearly 3,000 students are now upon its class rolls and nearly 1,000,000 visitors visited its museum last year. She has already given to the world such architects as Sullivan, Root, Burnham, Wright and Roche; such painters as Healy, Freer, Clarkson, Pyraud and Ufer, and such sculptors as Taft, Mulligan, Polasek, Zetter and Hibbard. The greatest statue in America, that of Lincoln by St. Gaudens, is located in Lincoln Park, and her parks are gradually becoming crowded with other statues of artistic merit. One of the noblest avenues in the Nation today is Michigan Boulevard; and, when extended to Chicago Avenue, as projected under the Burnham and Bentley plan, it will be without a rival in the western hemisphere. The great State spent the first quarter century of her life in fighting the red man, building log houses and fencing with rails the settlements of her pioneers. During the second quarter she began tilling her prairies and building her cities and, particularly, her queen city on Lake Michigan. In the third quarter she built her railroads and warehouses, developed her mines and commenced in earnest her career as a great manufacturing commonwealth, and to all of these developed to a degree which has been above and beyond the wildest dream of her most sanguine sons, she has been adding, during the last quarter of a century, beginning with the World's Fair in 1893, the touch of art and architecture which promises to make her great metropolis, not only the greatest commercial and manufacturing city on the western hemisphere, but one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

The man who, in 1861, would have predicted that Chicago, in 1918, would have increased in population over twenty-fold, would have been set down as visionary, of unsettled

mind. Judging the future by the past, it seems safe to predict that, within half a century, Chicago will number its inhabitants at 10,000,000. May the future of our great city and State be as glorious as it has been astonishing in the past, and may that growth be in beauty and grace, as well as in strength and power.